

Invest In Home Improvement Projects That Can Save You Money

With Fall just around the corner, now is a great time to start some simple home improvement projects that can make your home more energy efficient and put money back into your wallet. The colder months will be here before we know it, and these projects and tips can help you save on utility bills:

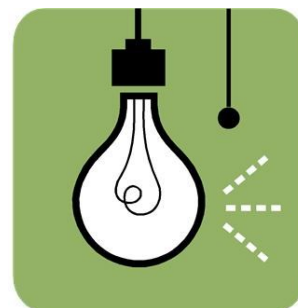
- **Weatherproof your home:** Before the New England chill arrives, check your home for extra spaces in windows, doors, roofs and siding. Consider adding insulation and sealing windows. Any investments made now will save money on heating this winter and for years to come.
- **Install a programmable thermostat:** There is no need to keep an empty home at 80 degrees in the winter. With a programmable thermostat, you can pre-program the temperature to be comfortable when you wake up, use less energy when you are out or at work, and still be comfortable when you arrive home. Using less energy means lower heating and cooling costs.
- **Check the vents and close the fridge:** Inspect heating and conditioning vents to make sure that air can flow freely. An accumulation of lint and dirt blocks vents, making machines work harder to heat or cool your home. Similarly, keeping the fridge and freezer doors open wastes the cold, requiring the refrigerator to exert more energy to keep foods properly chilled.
- **Buy energy efficient items:** New appliances can cost thousands of dollars, but investing in energy efficient dishwashers, AC units, washers, dryers – even light bulbs – can save you significant money in the long run.
- **Plan for future projects:** Season-ending sales are an excellent way to save money on any home improvement project. Landscape and garden materials are typically marked down at the end of the summer, though there are still many remaining days of good weather in September and October for lawn care.

Remember to use a **registered home improvement contractor** for any improvements, renovations or remodeling. You can check an HIC registration on our website, at www.mass.gov/homeimprovement.

For special electrical or plumbing work, be sure to use a licensed professional. You can check a professional license on the Division of Professional Licensure's website, at www.mass.gov/dpl.

Other ways to lower your electricity bill:

Turn off lights for empty rooms and install dimmers in living rooms and bedrooms. Unplug electronic devices when they are not in use. Though the device may be off there is still power running through the plug's cord which uses unnecessary energy.



Manage your washer and dryer. Wash full loads of clothing using cold water and cold-water detergents when possible. Clean the lint screen on the dryer after every load to improve air circulation and minimize the risk of fires. Hand washing delicates and air drying towels is also a great way to reduce costs.

The **Mass Save®** program can help you with a home energy assessment and provide information about rebates and incentives available for your projects. Learn more about energy efficiency for your home by visiting www.masssave.com.